MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is there any special officer appointed for this purpose?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not one officer. The Commissioner of Police is in entire charge of this arrangement. Persons possessing the necessary qualifications are selected from time to time. The buses require half-yearly inspections.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Am I to understand that the plurality of officers will obviate this difficulty?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no difficulty whatever.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I understand that there are a number of officers for testing the competency of the drivers. Are these officers duly qualified for the purpose?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The Commissioner of Police has considered them qualified enough for the purpose.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are the Government aware of the number of accidents that take place as a result of the incompetency of the drivers?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are the Government aware of the numerous cases prosecuted in the First Class Magistrates' Courts?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The information is not before Government now.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Do the Government think that only technically qualified men should be employed to test the competency of the drivers?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): No technically qualified men are required for the purpose.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): What are the qualifications of the men now employed for the purpose?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The qualifications of each man have to be ascertained.

Appointment of Traffic Inspector.

17. MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any recommendation has been made to them for appointing a Traffic Inspector; and

(*b*) whether there was any application from any Tamilian for the above post, and, if so, will they be pleased to consider the case of Tamilians who are least represented in the public service?

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MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) A recommendation has been received, but final orders have not been passed.

(*b*) An application from one has been received. Tamilians, like others, will have their applications considered.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): It is stated in the answer, "Tamilians, like others, will have their applications considered".

Are the Government aware that the Tamilian community is not sufficiently represented in the public service of the State?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have not called for the statistics. What the member says seems to be right.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to recall the statistics supplied in answer to a question at the previous session?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That has been referred to.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to note from that the percentage of Tamilians in the State service?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The percentage has not been calculated.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): If it is found that Tamilians are the least represented in the public service, will the Government be pleased to give special preference to applications from Tamilians?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That requires consideration.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I want to know from Government whether they are prepared to give preferential treatment to Tamilians when they understand, without the least vantage of doubt, that Tamilians are not adequately represented in the public service.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Conditional questions cannot be answered off-hand.

Statistics re Growth and Extraction of Timber.

18. **MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI** (*Tovala*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total acreage of timber forests in the State, the mean annual increment of timber growth per acre and the mean annual extraction of timber per acre and the price thereof?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total acreage of forests of private ownership in the State and the average quantity of timber of royal trees extracted from them per acre per year and the revenue on account of royalty?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): (*a*) and (*b*) The required statistics are not available.

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